

Henry K. List House
827 Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-208

HABS
WVA,
35-WHEEL,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HENRY K. LIST HOUSE

HABS No. WV-208

Location: 827 Main Street, Wheeling, Ohio County,
West Virginia.

Present Owner: The American National Red Cross.

Present Occupants: The Wheeling-Moundsville Chapter of the
American Red Cross.

Present Use: Offices and classrooms.

Significance: Built about 1858, this is a fine example of a house which
incorporates elements from two design styles: The Adam
Style, and the Romano-Tuscan Mode of the Renaissance
Revival Style. This house was built for Henry K. List, a
wholesale merchant and banker whose son, Ambrose, succeeded
him as president of the City Bank of Wheeling and continued
to live in this house until his death. A first floor
interior doorway has glass side panels thought to be a rare
example of Sweeney glass.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1858. The Ohio County Land Book of 1858 recorded that a house had been added to Lot 20 of the Old Town Plat during the year which was assessed at \$5,000.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is a chain of title for Lot 20, Old Town Plat:

1855	Deed 25 May, recorded in Deed Book 40, page 354. James Maxwell to Henry K. List \$5,500 for Lot 20, west side Main Street.
1895	Deed 10 September, recorded in Deed Book 94, page 273. William A. Isett and wife to Henry K. List. \$2,000 for 8 foot wide strip which is the north part of Lot 19, west side Main Street.
1900	Will probated 15 June, recorded in Will Book 8, page 493. Henry K. List to Sarah J. List (his wife) "All my property of every kind, real, personal and mixed."

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- 1909 Sarah J. List died intestate leaving as her sole heirs-at-law her children, including Ambrose S., Hettie M., and Daniel C. List.
- 1909 Deed 27 July, recorded in Deed Book 131, page 154. Daniel C. List et al, heirs-at-law of Sarah List to Ambrose S. List and sister, heirs at law of Sarah J. List, Hettie M. List (each holding 1/6 interest in the property) 4/6 interest in Lot 20 and part of Lot 19, Old Town Wheeling. This property descended to parties of the first part upon the death, intestate, of their mother Sarah J. List, widow and devisee of Henry K. List, deceased.
- 1938 Will, probated 31 January, recorded in Will Book 20, page 297. Ambrose S. List devised to Hettie M. List "All...my estate, real, personal, or mixed." (1/2 interest in Lot 20, Old Town Plat)
- 1941 Will, probated 15 April, recorded in Will Book 22, pages 40-46. Hettie M. List to Women's Club of Wheeling.
- Item 10: "I give, devise and bequesth my home, known as No. 827 Main Street...I specifically direct that the said Women's Club...shall not have the power to alienate, transfer, sell, let, or rent the aforesaid premises...in the event that the said Women's Club ...ceases to use the aforesaid premises...then I direct that the said property shall revert to Jessie List Hazlett and Sallie Dalzell."
- 1941 Deed 18 November, recorded in Deed Book 265, page 557. Jessie List Hazlett and Sallie L. Dalzell to The Women's Club of Wheeling \$4,000 for their reversionary interest in Lot 20 and part of Lot 19.
- 1946 Deed 1 May, recorded in Deed Book 286, page 202. The Women's Club of Wheeling to The American National Red Cross Lot 20 and part of Lot 19, Old Town Plat.
4. Alterations and additions: According to Mr. D. L. Pettit of the Wheeling-Moundsville Chapter of the American Red Cross, the most significant alterations were made in 1957. At that time the Red Cross removed the front porch and erected a new smaller replacement. A heating system, which serves only the first floor (not the basement or the second floor), was installed. Evidence of an earlier heating system exists in two old floor vents of cast iron. It is not possible to ascertain what heating system these vents served. All the floors of the first story were tiled, and fluorescent lighting was installed from the ceilings during this renovation period. The bay window was closed off by a partition wall and doorway.

The most significant structural change to take place in 1957, however, was the removal of the Victorian oriel from the front. Evidence of its removal is clearly apparent from early photographs. Mr. Pettit believes that this oriel was original.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Henry K. List was a prominent Wheeling businessman whose biographers chiefly associate him with the City Bank of Wheeling. This bank "which may be quoted as among our most enterprising and stable fiduciary institutions...(was) originally established in 1871 as The City Bank, modifying its title to the present designation in 1886." (Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley, Vol. 1, p. 560-561) In 1890 Henry I. List was president, and Ambrose S. List was vice-president. "The bank with all facilities at command extends an invitation to manufacturers and others to locate here, and is prepared to offer needed assistance on a liberal business basis." (Anonymous, History, Vol. 1, p. 560-561.)

There is little mention, however, of Henry K. List's business activities prior to his association with the City Bank of Wheeling. Evidence from the Deed Books and City Directories suggests that Mr. List owned a good deal of property on the east side of Main Street near Fourteenth Street. The 1851 Directory of the City of Wheeling and Ohio County identified Henry K. List as a wholesale grocer whose residence was 99 Market Street. An 1875 Wheeling directory refers to Mr. List's association with the pig iron and wool industries.

Wheeling's biographers were much more impressed by Mr. List's responsibilities as the president of the City Bank of Wheeling. This bank was established as a private banking firm in 1870. In 1885 the bank located at 1316 Market Street, at which time Henry K. and Ambrose S. List became actively identified with the City Bank. "It has largely represented the financial ability associated with this name (List) down to the present time." (Wingerter, History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity, Vol. 1, p. 306-307.)

Ambrose S. List succeeded his father to the office of president of the bank. In a biography written by Robert E. Murphy, it is recorded that Ambrose S. List started working in 1874 with his father, Henry K. List, in a wholesale business. This business continued to operate until 1886, when the Lists joined the City Bank of Wheeling. Ambrose List served for a time as director of the La Belle Iron Works. It was stated that he was "largely interested in real estate." (Robert E. Murphy, Progressive West Virginians, 1905, p. 113)

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources: Interview with Mr. D. L. Pettit, September 22, 1976.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley, Vol. 1. Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1890.

Cook, Howard and Company. Pocket Map and Business Directory of Wheeling. Baltimore, Maryland: Cook, Howard and Company, 1888.

Taylor, Oliver I. Directory of the City of Wheeling and Ohio County. Wheeling: Office of The Daily Gazette, 1851.

Wingerter, Charles A. History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity, Vol. 1. Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912.

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Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
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PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McCrae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie E. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.